



# NEWS RELEASE

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## OXENDINE SETS HEARING FOR UNITED HEALTHCARE

**Atlanta** – Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine has scheduled a show-cause hearing for United Healthcare Insurance Company, and sister company United Healthcare of Georgia Inc., in which the companies will be given the opportunity to explain why they should not have to pay a combined fine of \$2.4 million for failing to pay thousands of health claims timely.

“This show cause hearing is being held to give the United Healthcare companies the opportunity to address these very serious prompt pay issues. Consumers and doctors deserve prompt payment,” Commissioner Oxendine said. “I will aggressively pursue those who do not comply with the law.”

At issue are charges that the United Healthcare companies failed to pay between 75,000 to 80,000 claims in accordance with Georgia’s prompt pay law, which states that insurers must pay a claim within 15 working days, or explain to the consumer why there is a delay.

Last year Oxendine ordered a market conduct examination of United Healthcare Insurance Company after receiving numerous complaints regarding the company’s claims handling practices. In 2000 and 2002 United Healthcare of Georgia Inc. was fined by Oxendine for similar offenses.

The hearing is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Monday, October 31, in the Commissioner’s office.

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